

## National Play Day in Conwy August 2010

It was a week of fun and play in Conwy in August to celebrate National Play Day. A group of organisers came together to organise different play days all over the county in celebration of children and their right to play. The theme this year was ***Our Place Too!***

The ***Our place Too!*** campaign was to promote children as valued members of our communities, recognise the benefits of being part of a community and encouraging the opportunity to get to know each other, across the generations. The campaign was to also put children's needs at the heart of our community spaces and its aim was to support children to develop their own independence and freedom to play outdoors where they live.

The group organisations consisted of the North West Wales Play Forum, Conwy Voluntary Services Council, National Childminding Association, Communities 1<sup>st</sup>, Flying Start, the RSPB Reserve, Sure Start, Conwy County Borough Council and the Way of Life team. Community volunteers were also involved.

The group decided to run not one play day this year but 6! And they all went down a storm! Children enjoyed water fights, toasting marshmallows on the fire, building cardboard cities and dens, making their own rope swings and generally taking ownership of a space in their community to play for the day. Kelly Bee, Regional Play Development Officer for Conwy and one of the organisers, said "It was a breath of fresh air to see children and families coming out into their community for the day come rain or shine! Feed back we received was that communities would like for these types of opportunities to happen again in future and on a regular basis."

Martin King-Sheard, Principal Play Officer for Conwy and Development Officer for Play Wales, said "Playing is what children do when they are given sufficient time and space and there are enormous benefits to children in terms of becoming resilient individuals and skills development. Too often children are designed out of spaces they share with adults or are only allowed to play within a fenced off play area. As adults we all remember playing out on streets, in woods, on the beach and in parks – we would do well to remember this when planning where and how children can play today."

For further details, please contact Kelly Bee, Regional Play Officer, North West Wales Play Forum, at CVSC tel 07733 012796 email [Kelly.bee@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.bee@conwy.gov.uk)

